



PETERSBURG BOROUGH, PETERSBURG MEDICAL CENTER

JOINT MEDIA RELEASE: COVID-19 | POSITIVE CASE FROM OUT OF STATE

Date: August 12, 2020
From: Petersburg Emergency Operations Center (EOC)
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For Immediate Release

One new positive test result for COVID-19 has been identified through the traveler testing site at the James A. Johnson Airport in Petersburg. The positive case was a visitor who tested negative upon their arrival to Petersburg on July 20th, but tested positive on a test taken on August 4th, the day they left the state. The person is no longer in the community and is considered to be recovered by the State of Alaska. The visitor did not have symptoms of COVID-19 upon their arrival to Alaska.

The Alaska Department of Epidemiology has begun a contact investigation to identify close contacts and begin isolation or quarantine of anyone that meets the criteria of a close contact. Information provided thus far indicates that close contacts are limited and that the risk to the community is low.

We want to reassure the public that we are working closely with the Alaska Division of Public Health to identify anyone who may be at risk for having contact with these individuals. We will keep the public informed of any information that is needed for community health and safety.

Please refer to the CDC webpage for information on symptoms and precautionary measures at www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/.

Additional current information on COVID-19 is available through the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) at coronavirus.alaska.gov.

We must assume that COVID-19 is being spread in the community and all residents must act accordingly to prevent the further spread of this virus. If you are sick or suspect that you may be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, you should take steps to prevent the disease from spreading to people in your home and community. If you think you have been exposed to COVID-19 and develop a fever and symptoms, such as fever, cough or difficulty breathing, call the Petersburg Medical Center COVID Hotline at 907-772-5788 for medical advice. Do not go to the hospital or clinic before calling the hotline.

If you are not sick, please continue to take precautionary measures to stay healthy:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, or cough or sneeze into your elbow.
- Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects daily (e.g., tables, countertops, light switches, doorknobs, and cabinet handles) using a regular household detergent and water.
- Wear a mask when out in public when you cannot ensure six feet of social distancing as this could minimize the spread of COVID-19.
- Continue to socially distance. This means protecting you and your household members from getting sick. Avoid breaking your home bubble of protection.
- Monitor your health and that of your household members and call the COVID hotline with any questions.

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